

**Quarterly Report**  
**African Burial Ground Project**  
**Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement**

**June 30, 2006**

This report covers events surrounding the African Burial Ground (ABG) Project for the period of April 1 through June 30, 2006.

**Introduction**

The activities for this reporting period include outreach activities conducted and materials developed by OPEI, including the spring production and distribution of the newsletter *African Burial Ground News*; the award of the contract for interpretive media and Interpretive Center build-out, following the submission and review of proposals; an intake inventory at Howard University on the ABG samples for interim curation; and continued processing of the ABG archival material. A brief list of educational services provided and events held during this reporting period is provided as Appendix A.

**Activities of the Reporting Period**

**Education/Outreach (OPEI)**

As staff settled into the center in the east end lobby of 290 Broadway, walk-in visits and group tour requests continued to increase. More than 300 people attended the Spring Open House & Pinkster celebration on Saturday, May 13, including many first-time visitors. Activities included libation, storytelling and a grand finale by the dance troupe Something Positive; documentary film screenings and a special children's tour of the commemorative artwork. Christopher Moore made an audiovisual presentation on the meaning of Pinkster, the African American celebration that originated during the New Netherland colonial era, when free and enslaved Africans incorporated many of their own religious and cultural practices into the Dutch observance of Pentecost.

A spring edition of the newsletter *African Burial Ground News* was produced and circulated including coverage of the February National Monument Designation event, a feature article on the African Burial Ground Archaeology final report and other activities of the period. The staff also developed a teacher's guide of the commemorative artwork at 290 Broadway and a self-guide brochure for walk-in visitors. An African Burial Symposium was held at the Schomburg Center on May 20 with scholars Michael Blakey, Jean Howson, and ABG documentary filmmaker Christopher Moore. OPEI and Schomburg Center staff worked on plans for the 2006 commemorative celebration of the reinterment of 419 remains in October 2003. The celebration will take place on Friday, September 29 and plans call for the annual youth ring shout and performance program in the morning, open house all day at the OPEI center, and a performance tribute in the evening in the lobby of 290 Broadway.

**Interpretive Center (NPS)**

The NPS held two pre-proposal public meetings on April 19 during which the interpretive center contracting and development process were described and questions answered. An afternoon

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meeting was held at Bowling Green and an evening meeting at 290 Broadway. Proposals for the interpretive media were due on May 4 and architectural build-out proposals were due on May 5. In consultation with technical advisors NPS evaluated the interpretive media proposal and awarded a contract to Amaze Design, Boston, MA on June 27, 2006. The architectural build-out contract was awarded to Roberta Washington Architects, New York, NY on July 24, 2006.

The following individuals will work with the National Park Service throughout the development of the interpretive center: Dr. Michael Blakey, College of William and Mary; Dr. T.J. Davis, Arizona State University; Dowoti Desir, The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial & Educational Center, Inc and former African Burial Ground Memorial advisor; Howard Dodson, Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; and Fath Davis Ruffins, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

**Exterior Memorial (NPS)**

Construction is ongoing for the African Burial Ground National Monument by Rodney Leon.

**Technical Studies (Corps/Howard University)/Samples**

Discussion regarding the Integrated Report and Popular Report continued between GSA, Howard University, USACE, and SRI, Inc. Plans were made for a formal meeting between Howard University, USACE, and SRI to discuss the specific details of the reports' preparation.

During the week of April 17, USACE personnel traveled to Howard University and conducted an intake inventory on the ABG osteological and dental samples that had been coalesced in the Cobb Laboratory. All samples were inventoried and stored in Delta storage cabinets; the DNA samples are maintained in a freezer unit. At the time of the inventory, samples being studied by two Ph.D. students were not present, but arrangements are being made for their transfer following completion of study. Representatives from NPS attended a portion of the inventory to view the extent and condition of the samples and discuss their long-term curation.

**Archives Project (Corps)**

During this period, 80% of the Howard History Department Record Group has been repackaged and labeled. The Bioanthropology Record Group is 100 % complete, with all paper and photographic records repackaged, labeled, and arranged. Processing began on the Customs House Archaeology Record Group photographs in June. Coordination has continued with the NPS and GSA on the curation agreement. Retrieval trips for materials located at JMA-Alexandria, JMA-West Chester, and Central Connecticut State University are being planned for the next quarter.

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**Appendix A**

**Timeline of Meetings and Telephone Conferences conducted by the ABG Project Team**

**April 1 to June 30, 2005**

April 18, 2006            NPS and USACE meet to discuss samples at Howard University

April 19, 2006            Interpretive Center Pre-proposal public meetings New York, NY

**Timeline of OPEI activities April 1-June 30, 2006**

**APRIL, 2006**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Institution/Organization</b>	<b>#Visitors/ Attendees</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OPEI Walk- In's</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>TTL # Served</b>
<b>Monday April 3</b>				8		8
<b>Tuesday April 4</b>	Schomburg Meeting (Memorial)			6		6
<b>Wednes April 5</b>	PS137 Open Walk-In Tours	41 -	Film/Site Tour	15		56
<b>Thursday April 6</b>	MS12	60	Film/Site Tour	7		67
<b>Friday April 7</b>	Wadleigh HS  J's Tours & Talent Showcase	7  20	Film/Site Tour  Site Tour	25		52
<b>Monday April 10</b>	Hoboken Charter School	35	Film/Site Tour	7		47
<b>Tuesday April 11</b>	MS232	45	Film/Site Tour	10		51
<b>Wednes April 12</b>	PS150 Open Walk-In Film/Tours	26	Film/Site Tour	23		49
<b>Thursday April 13</b>	Women's Prison Assn. (Women's Shelter)	20	Film/Site Tour	26		46
<b>Friday April 14</b>				13		13
<b>Saturday April 15</b>	NAACP Youth Council + 2	32	Film/Site Tour			32
<b>Monday April 17</b>	LaGuardia Comm. College (3 separate classes)	78	Off Site/Film	10		88
<b>Tuesday April 18</b>	Bed-Stuy Restoration Corp	50	Off Site/Film	5		55
<b>Wednes</b>	Open Walk-In Film/Tours			38		38

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<b>April 19</b>						
<b>Thursday April 20</b>	NYCHA Bayview Comm Ctr	20	Film/Site Tour	8		28
<b>Friday April 21</b>				30		30
<b>Monday April 24</b>				32		32
<b>Tuesday April 25</b>	Comm Intermediate School	42	Film/Site Tour	5		47
<b>Wednes April 26</b>	Open Walk-In Film/Tours			9	PO/Parolees Film	9
<b>Thursday April 27</b>	PE69K @ PS117  Millerville University	74  55	Off Site/Film  Film/Site Tour	47	Tour Group (provided site tour to walk-in group)	176
<b>Friday April 28</b>				20		20
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>950</b>

During the month of April we received/served visitors in the OPEI office from the following countries: Denmark, England, Argentina, Florida, Holland, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Haiti, Spain; as well as California, Wisconsin and Minneapolis.

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**MAY, 2006**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Institution/Organization</b>	<b>#Visitors/ Attendees</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OPEI Walk- In's</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>TTL # Served</b>
<b>Monday May 1</b>	PS 195	73	Film/Site Tour	12	Film - OPEI office	125
	Hofstra University	40	Off Site/Film		Split into 2 groups	
<b>Tuesday May 2</b>	PE369	74	Film/Site Tour	12	Film - OPEI office Split into 2 groups	86
<b>Wednes May 3</b>	PS 249	28	Film/Site Tour	10	Film - OPEI office	38
<b>Thursday May 4</b>	BMCC	(35)		6	<b>CANCELLED</b> by Professor P. Matthews	6
<b>Friday May 5</b>	US Army Corp of Engineers Employee and her family	12	Film/Site Tour	8		20
<b>Monday May 8</b>				11		11
<b>Tuesday May 9</b>	Brooklyn Charter School	35	Film/Site Tour	12	<b>3 Visitors from Intl Slavery Museum, Liverpool, England</b>	47
<b>Wednes May 10</b>	Bank Street School	25	Film/Site Tour	14	2 Visitors from Intl Slavery Museum, Liverpool, England	39
<b>Thursday May 11</b>	Bank Street School	25	Film/Site Tour	6		31
<b>Friday May 12</b>	Manhattan Country School	20	Film/Site Tour	10	(Cancelled due expected inclement weather)	63
	Albemarle High School	33	Film/Site Tour			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Institution/Organization</b>	<b>#Visitors/ Attendees</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>OPEI Walk- In's</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>TTL # Served</b>
<b>Saturday May 13</b>	<b>SPRING OPEN HOUSE/ PINKSTER CELEBRATION</b>	300				300
<b>Monday May 15</b>				15		15

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<b>Tuesday May 16</b>	New Amsterdam Study	35	Film./Site Tour	23		58
<b>Wednes May 17</b>	New Amsterdam Study	35	Film/Site Tour	3		68
	Community Board #1 Youth Fair	30	Information Table			
<b>Thursday May 18</b>	New Amsterdam Study	30	Film/Site Tour	16		67
	Wadleigh High School	21	Off Site/Film			
<b>Friday May 19</b>				5		5
<b>Monday May 22</b>	Comm. Intermediate School 303	55	Film/Site Tour	7		62
<b>Tuesday May 23</b>				32		32
<b>Wednes May 24</b>				5		5
<b>Thursday May 25</b>	Satellite Academy HS	22	Film/Site Tour	8		30
<b>Friday May 26</b>				71		71
<b>Monday May 29</b>	<b>MEMORIAL HOLIDAY</b>					
<b>Tuesday May 30</b>				6		6
<b>Wednes May 31</b>	Harlem House	13	Film/Site Tour		Mentally challenged group	13

**TOTAL                      1198**

During the month of May we received/served visitors in the OPEI office from the following countries: England, Canada, Croatia, New Caledonia, Australia, Germany, Paris, Sweden, and South Africa; as well as Florida, Texas, Illinois and Washington, D.C.

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JUNE, 2006

Date	Institution/Organization	#Visitors/ Attendees	Service	OPEI Walk- In's	Comments	TTL # Served
<b>Thursday June 1</b>	Stuyvesant High School	26	Off Site/Film	10		36
<b>Friday June 2</b>	Walt Whitman Tenant Assn	35	Film/Site Tour	8		43
<b>Monday June 5</b>				8		8
<b>Tuesday June 6</b>				2		2
<b>Wednes June 7</b>				5		5
<b>Thursday June 8</b>				8		8
<b>Friday June 9</b>				10		10
<b>Monday June 12</b>				10		10
<b>Tuesday June 13</b>	Future Leaders Institute Charter School	26	Film/Site Tour	10	Charter School No Show	10
<b>Wednes June 14</b>	State Univ/Old Westbury	20	SG Site Tour	3		23
<b>Thursday June 15</b>	Great Expectations-PS85 (Cancelled)	(27)	Film/Site Tour	10	1 <sup>st</sup> of 8 groups <b>Cancelled</b>	10
<b>Friday June 16</b>				6		6
<b>Monday June 19</b>	Great Expectations-PS85	(27)	Film/Site Tour	12	<b>Cancelled</b>	12
<b>Tuesday June 20</b>	Great Expectations-PS85  PS 295  The Dome Project, Inc.	(27)  30  25	Film/Site Tour  Off Site  Off Site/Film	20	<b>Cancelled</b>  Presentation of Quilt	102
<b>Wednes June 21</b>	Great Expectations-PS85	(27)	Film/Site Tour	15	<b>Cancelled</b>	15
<b>Thursday June 22</b>	Great Expectations-PS85	(27)	Film/Site Tour	30	<b>Cancelled</b>	30
<b>Friday June 23</b>	Maricopa County Schools	17	Film/Site Tour	2	History Teachers From Arizona	19
<b>Monday</b>	Great Expectations-PS85	(27)	Film/Site	20	<b>Cancelled</b>	20

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<b>June 26</b>			Tour			
<b>Tuesday June 27</b>	Great Expectations-PS85	(27)	Film/Site Tour	11	<b>Cancelled</b>	11
<b>Wednes June 28</b>	Harriet Beecher Stowe Ctr	(15)	Film/Site Tour	15	<b>No Show</b>	15
<b>Thursday June 29</b>	Great Expectations-PS85	(30)	Film/Site Tour	5	<b>Cancelled</b>	5
<b>Friday June 30</b>	New Generation Academy	15	Self- Guided Tour	6		21

**TOTALS 421**

**GRAND TOTAL 2,569**

During the month of June we received/served visitors in the OPEI office from the following countries:  
Germany, Greece, France, Australia, and Capetown, South Africa; as well as Georgia, Indiana, Arkansas,  
Arizona, Texas, Iowa